

Annual Report

2022



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Be At Peace

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Sharing God's love, growing in faith, and creating community.

Our Guiding Biblical Principles:

1. Worship of the triune God is central to our life together.
2. We are grounded in Scripture & prayer & we encourage each other to question, listen, & learn.
3. We believe everyone is loved & worthy of love; all people are welcome in God's kingdom.
4. We respond to the needs of our neighbors near and far, following Christ's example.
5. We use our time, talents, and finances for the glory of God.
6. We promote love and justice for all of God's creation.

AGENDA
Congregation Meeting
February 5, 2022

- Introduction and Comments by Council Secretary Mary Dallao
- Approval of Minutes from Congregation Meeting of September 18, 2022
- Report on Capital Campaign and Year-End Financial Results by Treasurer David Whitten
- Presentation and Discussion of, and Vote on, 2023 Budget
- Thanks to Interim Musicians and Welcome to New Music Director
- Ordination Gifts presented to Rode Molla
- Election of Nominating Committee
- Pastor's Report and Vision for the Year
- Other Business
- Prayer and Adjournment



Council President Norm Philion

Dear People of Peace,

The work and achievements of Peace during the past year are those about which the congregation can be justly proud. We have committed our time, talent, and financial resources to the opportunities that best serve and fulfill the mission of Peace: Sharing God's love, growing in faith, and creating community.

The fulfillment of that mission can be highlighted by recognizing those who helped achieve it:

- Pastor Sarah and the Congregation Council for creating partnerships with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and REACT DC in aid of Afghan refugees and the Afghan community in Northern Virginia.
- The Property Committee for keeping our buildings in repair and functioning, and maintaining our grounds during a period when the building and grounds saw more use by more people than at any time in its history.
- To our musicians, including Judy Gallagher, Paul Sticha, Jim Nice, and Ridgeway Addison, who, in the absence of a Music Director for most of the year, stepped in to create musical programs for Sunday services that were inspiring.
- The Tech Committee for continuing to provide a virtual link to our Sunday services for those unable to attend in person and for purchasing and installing cameras in the Sanctuary that aid that work.
- Nadia Fitzcharles for directing the Ministries for Children, Youth, Family & Community in splendid and creative ways that benefit both the congregation (through Sunday School and fellowship related programs) and the community (through Neighbor-to-Neighbor and other outreach).
- Shannon Spence and the Racial Justice Team for their work in helping us to understand the need for, and the ways to achieve, racial justice for all.
- The Congregation Council for all of its indefatigable work.
- All the members of our congregation, for their generosity, not only financially, but in the many (and often unsung) ways in which they volunteer their time and talent. God bless all of you!

Finally, I was truly touched by the joint celebration that took place in November—the 65th Anniversary of the founding of Peace Lutheran Church and the 10th Anniversary of Pastor Sarah's installation. The love that was shared in words, writings, photos, and reminiscences was truly inspiring. This celebration of 65 years of service left me—and I hope you—looking optimistically to continuing this work in the future. With Pastor Sarah in the pulpit, that optimism is doubled.

Norm Philion

Pastor's Report Pastor Sarah Scherschligt

*"Come, let us rebuild."
-Nehemiah 2:17*

2022 was a rebuilding year.

We started 2022 with a Fellowship Hall full of donations for Afghan evacuees to rebuild their lives, and a lot of hopes (and fears) about what the year would bring us as a church. Would we be able to come back from the pandemic? How would we share God's love in a world that was recovering from multiple traumas? Well, God showed up! Some highlights:

- **Our partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee services**, the 1400 Afghan evacuees that started to rebuild their lives through Peace, and the friendships that we formed.



- **Growth in worship attendance and membership**, higher than pre-covid levels!
- Accomplishments in each of our **Outreach and Advocacy** priorities, a) Racial Justice, b) Climate Justice and c) Food Insecurity (over \$5000 for weekend food on Christmas Eve!)
- The reworking of our **Children, Youth and Family** program to fit the post-pandemic-ish world (and all the kids in church!)
- Shoring up our **worship life**, including tech improvements, intentional rebuilding of worship teams, and making our way without a music director for almost the whole year.
- Lively **housegroups** to create community and rebuild relationships.
- **Ordinations** of two Peace members, Jon Nerdig and Rode Molla.
- A heartwarming **celebration** of my ten-year anniversary as your pastor and Peace's 65th.



Truly, Peace is at a great place in terms of energy, clarity, direction, partnerships, and enthusiasm.

What I'm the most excited about, however, is **how much the people of Peace connect all this outward activity with God's presence and power**. I see you growing in faith, wrestling with some very hard theological questions, developing spiritual muscles, and living lives that reflect Christ's kindness and justice. You are a truly amazing group of Christ's disciples.

I want to thank a few people specifically:

Our staff: **Nadia Fitzcharles** is our secret sauce, when she is involved, everything is better! **Josh Keiter** has a servant's heart and does everything with efficiency and kindness. **Adela Peeva** served eleven great years as the Peace Music Director (thank you Adela!), and musicians **Jim Nice, Paul Sticha and Judy Gallagher** carried us beautifully us through a long interim. Our nursery staff, **Aina Ramanpandrisson and Sophie Morgan** create a welcoming and safe environment for our kids.

Volunteers: **Janine Woldt, Jim Buchanan** and the search committee conducted an excellent search (Welcome **Liz Mun!**). **Andrew Tlusty, Stu Whitehead, Kathleen Wage** and the tech team keep worship humming. **Shannon Spence and the racial justice team** lead not only at Peace but throughout the Synod. Property ministers **Anna & Don Hartmayer and Sue Clark** made the LIRS partnership possible; Finance team **David Whitten, Carol Randall, Ray and Debbie Marquardt**, plus Stewardship Team **Dan Manchester and Kathy Nice**, kept our financial house in order. **Tammy Hepner, Rose Stillwell and Mary Downs** organized worship behind the scenes. **Diane Yeager and Sue Czarnetzky** coordinated the anniversary celebrations. Our Church Council serves with heart and humor and **Norm Phillion** is an excellent president. It's always risky to name individual volunteers. I'm certain as soon as this is published, I'll realize I missed many others who went over and above in service to Peace this year! Each person at Peace has a role to play, so pat yourselves on the back and someone else too, for the ways you contributed.

In 2022 we suffered some heartbreaking deaths and diagnoses. Funerals for beloved members Susan DeHaven and Erin Messner were held on the same hard day in March. Throughout the year, the deacon team showed up powerfully for other church members in need.

As an extension of my ministry at Peace, I served my second year on the Synod Council and my fourth year on

the board of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.

On a personal note, I started 2022 completely depleted. The cumulative stress of the pandemic created a profound exhaustion that was starting to become unbearable. You noticed and cared. You gave me a four-week renewal leave which made all the difference. Thank you. Thank you.

Finally, I'm also excited that I published a book of reflections on the pandemic called "God Holds You: A Pandemic Chronicle." Thanks to all who have supported that project. A dream come true.

Thanks to God and each of you, our spiritual house is in good order and has been rebuilt well. I am grateful,

Be at Peace,
Pastor Sarah



Parochial Report Josh Keiter

Parochial Report for year ending December 31, 2022

Baptized/confirmed members, at the end of 2021 was 270

Baptized members received during 2022:

By baptism:	3
By transfer:	0
By affirmation of faith	32
Total Received this year:	35

Baptized members removed during 2022

By death:	5
By transfer	4
For other reasons and adjustment	0
Total removed this year	9

Baptized/confirmed members, end of 2022 is 296

Total number of people, including members and non-members who are actively participating in the life of the congregation is 309.

Parish Notes 2022

Baptized:

Arwen Lujan-Stiles, 4/17/22
Joseph Lujan-Stiles, 4/17/22
Graham Parker Allen 11/27/22

Anne-Claire Kasten, 10/30/22

Scott Kasten, 10/30/22

Felix Kasten, 10/30/22

Genevieve Kasten, 10/30/22

Jacques Kasten, 10/30/22

Brianna Allen, 10/30/22

Matthew Allen, 10/30/22

Graham Allen, 10/30/22

Erik Loisel, 11/20/22

Momah Wolapaye, 11/20/22

Dartoon Wolapaye, 11/20/22

Laymah Wolapaye, 11/20/22

Michelle Wolapaye, 11/20/22

Nyneah Wolapaye, 11/20/22

Paul Wolapaye, 11/20/22

New Members (by affirmation of faith/transfer):

Annalise D'Andrade, 5/1/22
Bill Penoyar, 5/1/22
Emmie Sargent, 5/1/22
Kit Sargent, 5/1/22
Dave Max, 9/18/22
Karla Max, 9/18/22
Eric Max, 9/18/22
John Max, 9/18/22
Will Max, 9/18/22
Matthew Mills, 9/18/22
Emily Mills, 9/18/22
Abby Mills, 9/18/22
Ceci Mills, 9/18/22
Nori Mills, 9/18/22
Sandi Penoyar, 9/18/22
Endrias Assen, 10/30/22
Rode Molla, 10/30/22
Halleta Endrias, 10/30/22

Deaths:

Ray Bostow, 12/9/21

Judy Clark, 1/1/22

Erin Messner, 3/7/22

Ed Axthelm, 3/18/22

Gedamu Tsegaye, 4/2/22

Transferred:

Kris & Steve Rinnert

Dan Hanner & Carolyn Fuerst

Financial Highlights of 2022

David Whitten

A quick summary of our 2022 finances:

- We continued the agreement with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) in 2022. LIRS used our Education Wing as a temporary field office, helping 1400 refugees. We

will be continuing the relationship with LIRS as their work changes in 2023 and entering into an agreement with a new group REACT DC, as they support the refugee community.

- We ended the year with a deficit of about \$14,000, better than the budgeted deficit of \$23,000. We had ended 2021 with a surplus of about \$10,000. Many thanks to the Peace community for its continued generosity.

We are holding just over \$300,000 in the Peace For The Future fund in reserve for future, to be determined projects that are in line with our long term vision. We did use some of this fund in 2022, buying remote controlled cameras for the sanctuary, and computer and sound equipment to better support streaming the church services online. We also finished brickwork in early 2022.

Peace for the Future as of 12/31/2021	
<u>Donations</u>	Total To Date
Money Donated in 2022	\$ 1,085
Total Money Donated	\$ 900,221
<u>Total Spending</u>	Total To Date
1) Inspired Worship	\$ 24,796
2) Inviting and Accessible Welcome	\$ 212,368
3) Community Ministry	\$ 20,764
4) Creation Care	\$ 163,266
5) Partnerships and Contingencies	\$ 167,778
--Detailed Expenses for 2022	In 2022
(1) Cameras	\$ 8,428
(1) Sound/Streaming System Upgrade	\$ 603
(2) Brickwork	\$ 30,330
<u>Funds in PFTF Account</u>	\$ 311,249.43

Three notes on accounts:

- The Pastor's fund received generous donations, allowing the church to provide immediate help to members of the community who are in need.
- We rely on the Property Repair and Replacement (R & R) Fund to pay for significant improvements and repairs to the church, the Lauxman House, and the grounds.
- The Community Ministry Fund supports a variety of outreach activities. The increase for 2022 is due the overwhelming support in December for the food bags for Belvedere Elementary.
- Two new funds were added in 2022 to support seasonal devotional books and ordination gifts for new ministers

Assets	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	Change
Time and hard work of members	Huge!	Huge!	
Liquid Assets			
1100 Checking Account	92,558.82	57,101.94	-\$35,740
1101 Money Market Account	407,682.02	388,137.91	-\$19,544
Total Bank Accounts	\$500,241	\$445,239.85	-\$55,284
Liabilities			
Where liquid assets are dedicated:			
Capital Funds			
2307 Property R&R	25,805.91	12,544.83	-\$13,261
2310 Peace for the Future	349,524.56	311,249.43	-\$38,275
Discretion of Council			
2228 Recital Fund	1.00	1.00	\$0
2302 Undesignated	32,225.92	31,975.92	-\$250
Discretion of Ministry			
2209 Quilter's Ministry	944.77	1166.86	-\$61
2210 HS Quilts	210.06	210.06	\$0
2212 Youth Fund	1,258.67	1,258.67	\$0
2213 Pastor's Fund	12,863.29	16,228.04	\$3,365
2219 Music Fund	4,870.44	5,285.94	\$416
2220 WRAP	1,031.56	1,031.56	\$0
2223 Comm Ministry Grant	23,101.00	23,101.00	\$0
2224 Community Ministry Fund	3,624.51	7,659.77	\$4,035
2229 Neighbor to Neighbor	2,929.25	7,725.58	\$4,796
2344 Racial Justice Fund	316.00	316.00	\$0
2701 Retreat Fund	3,076.79	3,076.79	\$0
Others Ministry Directs			
2211 Village of Hope in Haiti	1,440.00	3,250.89	\$1,811
2206 Gifts of Hope	0.00	0.00	\$0
2232 Devotional Books	0.00	150.00	\$150
2234 Ordination Gifts	0.00	-135.56	-\$136
Pay Out			
2201 ACCA	1,625.00	0.00	-\$1,625
2207 Special Offerings	1,270.00	3,349.59	\$2,080
2226 ELCA World Hunger	610.00	1,710.00	\$1,100
2230 Refugee Support	0.00	570.00	\$570
Total Dedicated Funds	\$466,729	\$431,726	-\$35,286

We received over \$11,000 in new contributions to the endowment fund in 2022. Due to the nature of the financial markets, the amount of interest available for distribution is only \$3,456 as of the end of the year. The committee will make decisions about potential disbursements from the fund.

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Restricted Assets		
Endowment Fund Principal	\$119,945.70	\$11,780 added in 2022
Endowment Fund Interest	\$3,456.25	
Total	\$119,997.41	
Mission Investment Account	\$52,683.35	Available Anytime
Endowment Fund A	\$70,718.60	Minimum withdrawal \$2000
Total	\$95633.96	
Brokerage Cash	\$1034.05	Needed for stock transactions
William E. Woldt Memorial Fund	\$18,075	
Martin Katambe Memorial Fund	\$809	

Reasons our operating budget departed from expectations in 2022

- We were without a Music Director for most of the year, relying on our talented musicians to tide us over until we could hire a replacement. We spent less on the Music Director line item and accordingly, more on the line item for guest musicians
- We purchased a new lawn mower and contracted for significant work cleaning up the grounds.
- We incurred some additional property maintenance expenses to support LIRS.

Expenses	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	% of Budget
Adult Education			
5104 Teaching Materials		150.00	0.00%
Total Adult Education	\$0.00	\$150.00	0.00%
Children, Youth and Family			
5201 Nursery Attendant	3,088.02	4,200.00	73.52%
6205 Children & Youth Materials & Activities	1,868.20	2,000.00	93.41%
Total Children, Youth and Family	\$4,956.22	\$6,200.00	79.94%
Fellowship			
5301 Supplies and Food	579.72	1,000.00	57.97%
Total Fellowship	\$579.72	\$1,000.00	57.97%
Miscellaneous			
5401 Congregation Conventions	753.62	600.00	125.60%
5410 Staff Expenses and Schooling	131.72	2,000.00	6.59%
5411 Racial Justice		1,500.00	0.00%
6605 Senior Pastor Expenses and Schooling	2,123.65	3,000.00	70.79%
6703 Portico Benefits	82,900.87	73,000.00	113.56%
6990 New Employee Search	342.25	200.00	171.13%
Total Miscellaneous	\$86,252.11	\$80,300.00	107.41%

Office and General			
5402 Payroll Taxes (FICA)	8,795.98	11,220.00	78.40%
5403 Postage & Office Supplies	2,329.56	1,700.00	137.03%
5404 Accounting and Legal	3,106.65	3,600.00	86.30%
5405 Parish Administrator	23,587.98	24,837.60	94.97%
5406 Telephone and Internet	4,678.50	4,840.00	96.66%
5407 Workers' Compensation	1,291.00	1,200.00	107.58%
5409 Copier Lease & Service	4,486.39	4,000.00	112.16%
Total Office and General	\$48,276.06	\$51,397.60	93.93%
Others			
5500 Synod and ELCA	36,000.00	36,000.00	100.00%
5501 ACCA	3,595.05	7,200.00	49.93%
5503 Others Ministry Expenses	735.00	150.00	490.00%
5504 Director Children, Youth, Community	60,437.84	60,000.00	100.73%
Total Others	\$100,767.89	\$103,350.00	97.50%
Property			
5801 Electricity	1,922.75	2,400.00	80.11%
5803 Gas	6,719.03	6,900.00	97.38%
5805 Insurance	9,220.00	7,600.00	121.32%
5806 Janitorial Expenses	13,045.50	10,000.00	130.46%
5809 Organ/Piano Contracts	3,324.88	2,800.00	118.75%
5812 Grounds & Snow Removal	10,876.95	4,000.00	271.92%
5813 Common Maint. (Plumb, Elect, Heat, AC, Fire, Lock, Bulb)	12,313.61	10,000.00	123.14%
5814 Discretionary Property	9,251.94	8,000.00	115.65%
5816 Water Bill	4,552.07	3,600.00	126.45%
Total Property	\$71,226.73	\$55,300.00	128.80%
Senior Pastor			
6701 Salary	39,844.10	39,843.87	100.00%
6702 Housing Allowance	58,000.10	58,000.00	100.00%
Total Senior Pastor	\$97,844.20	\$97,843.87	100.00%
Stewardship			
5901 Stewardship Ministry		150.00	0.00%
Total Stewardship	\$0.00	\$150.00	0.00%
Thrivent Mortgage			
5808 Mortgage Payments	42,174.00	40,572.00	103.95%
Total Thrivent Mortgage	\$42,174.00	\$40,572.00	103.95%
Uncategorized Expense	2,997.22		
Witness			
6003 Technology and Online Infrastructure	3,048.16	3,000.00	101.61%
6004 Materials and Signs	62.10	350.00	17.74%
6005 Communication Specialist	10,237.50	10,920.00	93.75%
Total Witness	\$13,347.76	\$14,270.00	93.54%

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Worship			
6101 Music Director & Organist	25,394.31	44,410.88	57.18%
6102 Director Bells	8,660.02	8,659.56	100.01%
6103 Director Messengers	7,576.98	7,577.05	100.00%
6105 Music Supplies	643.60	1,600.00	40.23%
6106 Guest Pastors & Musicians	5,435.00	4,960.00	109.58%
6107 Worship Aids	1,675.19	2,500.00	67.01%
6109 Sound & Video Lead	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%
Total Worship	\$49,385.10	\$72,707.49	67.92%
Total Expenses	\$517,807.01	\$523,240.96	98.96%

We paid for these expenses as shown in the following chart.

Income	2022 Actual
Online Giving	\$172,471.79
Checks	\$199,649.00
Loose Cash	\$685.00
All Other Receipts	\$5,965.62
HOFI	\$0.00
Bank Account Interest	\$169.39
T-Mobile Lease	\$26,978.75
LIRS	\$42,000
Synod Grant	\$46,200
Total Income	\$503,392.05





Children, Youth and Family Nadia Fitzcharles

Dear Church, I am honored and grateful to be and do church with you all. The Spirit is moving at Peace and it is amazing to witness and be a part of! I pray for continued clarity, courage, creativity, and joy to guide us. With love and gratitude, Nadia

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Highlights

- Almost one year ago, we held a Shrove Tuesday event around a fire pit on a cold evening because we were still in an uncertain place in regards to gathering indoors.
- Sunday school was fully in-person all year! It has been a blessing to gather and hear the joyful and excited sounds of children and parents on Sunday mornings. A huge thank you to the parent-teachers, Sunday school would not be possible without you!!
- Youth worship helpers – six youth were trained as acolytes in the fall, in addition to youth readers and helpers with Kids Church.
- The Girl Scout Troop that meets at Peace built and installed a little free library outside the Lauxman House church offices. The blessing of books continue to be shared!
- A first communion class for children was held during Lent and led to bread-baking and a special first communion celebrated on Maundy Thursday 2022.
- Pastor Sarah continued to oversee and lead confirmation youth through a three-year period of learning, questioning, and faith formation. As a confirmation parent, it is exciting to hear and see how these young people are experiencing and grappling with faith!
- Thanks to the guidance of Mary Dallao, we installed our first ever story walk at Peace, featuring the book “When God Made the World” by Matthew Paul Turner.
- High school youth were invited to check in via Zoom and attend youth group events with area churches for an opportunity to explore our faith and meet other youth in our synod. We celebrated high school seniors Emma Tlusty, Will Matthey, and Landon Gates with quilts and a sending blessing (big thanks to the Peace quilters!).
- Big thanks to the care of our nursery supervisors, Sophie and Aina (who we welcomed to the supervisor role in May)! The nursery is staffed during Sunday school, the 10:30 church service, and special events when noted.
- Faithful Families – this gathering of families with kids up to age 12ish is always amazing! We share a potluck-style meal, hear a story and do activities together. Looking forward to more gatherings in 2023!
- Advent wreath workshop – a wonderful gathering of twelve families made wreaths for the Advent season. Big thanks to Kara Danner for leading the workshop.
- Advent pageant – this was a very special pageant as it was the first in-person, live one we’ve had since Covid started.
- Living Nativity – big thanks to the Danner/D’Andrade Household for building the living nativity scene again this year! This year we welcomed two wonderful therapy dogs (and their human counterparts) to join us at the manger.
- Upcoming synod-sponsored retreats for children and youth:
 - ⇒ Mar Lu Ridge Retreats for Elementary and Middle School Youth in March 2023: Youth + Family Ministry - Seekers (youngfaithmatters.com)
 - ⇒ High School Leadership Event at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg in June 2023: Youth + Family Ministry - High School Leadership Event (youngfaithmatters.com)
 - ⇒ Also, save the dates for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering:
 - ⇒ Multicultural Youth Leadership Event and the tAble (July 13-16, 2024)
 - ⇒ ELCA Youth Gathering and Young Adult Gathering (July 16-20, 2024)
- We gathered for fellowship, fun, food, and togetherness at other events and opportunities across the year!

- A heartfelt thank you goes to all the children, youth, parents, and congregation members who support, encourage, uplift, and make this ministry possible...Thanks be to God!

Community Ministry Highlights

- School partnerships: Belvedere and Parklawn Elementary Schools
We continue to foster relationships with Belvedere and Parklawn Elementary school communities through support of the weekend food bag program, volunteer hours, and donations of clothes, household items, and more.
- We hosted several events where the larger community joined us including an Afghan tea event with speakers, an Easter morning egg hunt before church, a community yard sale benefitting Bethany House of Northern Virginia, and a Halloween Trunk or Treat in partnership with REACT DC. These events were great opportunities to get to meet and welcome neighbors to Peace.

Outreach and Advocacy

**Sue Clark, Linda Delk, Ron Maree,
Jen Landis Santos, Chris Solem
Staff liaison: Nadia Fitzcharles**

OUTREACH

Belvedere Elementary School Bag Project: As part of the ELCA Church wide “All Hands Day” in September, the congregation lined up in the Fellowship Hall after the service to pack weekend food bags for the children at our local Belvedere Elementary School. The project was funded by several \$250 grants from Thrivent Financial as well as very

generous member donations. These monthly food packages are given out by teachers to those students in need of extra food over the weekends when school lunches are not provided. Near the end of the year Pastor Sarah received a call from the school counselor asking if we could supply more food than what we had been providing for 10 students each weekend during the entire school year. Peace Church again rose to the moment and far exceeded our goal of \$1500 dollars after Jim Buchanan gave an impassioned talk at the Christmas Eve service resulting in donations of over \$5000! This funding, plus money we already had available will provide food for many more students in 2023.

CROP Walk for Annadale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) and Church World Service: In October in support of our local ACCA community Peace again participated in the annual CROP walk. Several members walked the trails around beautiful Lake Accotink Park with 30+ members from other ACCA churches. We met our \$1000 goal and raised over \$1300 that is used to supply our local food pantry as well as the self-help projects of Church World Service! Since Peace started participating in the walk in 1982, we have raised over \$1000 each year which amounts to around \$40,000.

Village of Hope Christmas Program Bags and Gifts: Peace Church continued our support to the VOH and again adapted to the challenges of both the pandemic and the worsening political and economic situation in Haiti. This year Marni Maree, the VOH Board Member from Peace, again led that effort and worked with Churches around the country and our host Church in Florida to try to deliver the gifts to the kids. Unfortunately, due to the violence in the country, our gifts and gift cards did not get delivered **YET**, but as done in the past, the plan is to get them there whenever feasible. Thanks to the many child sponsors at Peace who donate \$40/month, the school continues to operate when possible. The children are given lunch and education from one of the best Haitian schools as measured by test scores in the country. Our support has also allowed the health center to stay open when possible and to keep it open. Many of the staff now stay on the second floor of the facility during the week. Peace Church is making a difference in Haiti. Our international mission extends the LOVE of Christ outside of the USA.

Hypothermia Shelter Meals Preparation and Delivery: Peace volunteered to support an entire week of the Bailey's Crossroads hypothermia shelter food preparation and delivery effort in December. The week we were assigned was between Christmas and New Year's, not the easiest week to find volunteers. Thanks to the coordinating efforts of Jennifer Landis-Santos and several Peace members, including family visiting for the holidays came through and prepared and served a hot meal with drinks, salad, and dessert each night. The guests for the evening participated in an opening prayer and then were very thankful for the meal and very gracious by ensuring everyone had enough food before coming back for more. The guests then helped clean up and put away the chairs and tables as they found a spot to put their sleeping rolls and mats on a very hard floor.

Neighbor to Neighbor: Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N, formerly known as The Homework Club): This wonderful community made up of volunteers and mostly newly arrived Afghan families, along with a few neighborhood families, continued to gather for weekend Zoom English classes/groups and in-person Saturday sessions, along with special events like a Nowruz (new year) party, a summer picnic hosted by the Interfaith Community for Dialogue (ICD), and a Fall puppet show. The N2N planning team and volunteers represent a multi-church effort supported by the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA).

ADVOCACY

January: Hosted a prayer vigil, in cooperation with Burke Presbyterian, on the lawn at Peace. A "cell" was set up demonstrating the size of a typical cell where people are held in solitary confinement. Our prayers focused on reducing the amount of time spent in solitary in Virginia.

March: Began a collection to purchase gift cards for halal meat. The cards were given to LIRS which in turn, distributed the cards to newly arriving refugees.

May: Supported Lutheran Volunteer Corp by providing information about LVC and sponsoring a hike, led by Chris Solem, at Fairfax County Mason District Park. Also in May, wrote and acted in a skit for the congregation explaining what advocacy means, the difference between outreach and advocacy and inviting people to get involved.

Throughout the year, information and advocacy action items from ELCA and the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy were publicized in the weekly e-news.



Deacon Care Team Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell

For most of 2022 the current core Deacon/Care Committee members were: Pastor Sarah, Ron Maree, Kathy Nice, Sue and Jim Buchanan, Sue Clark, Sue Czarnetzky, Carol Randall and Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell.

After a hiatus in the spring and summer months, zoom meetings picked back up once per month in late September. At the meetings, members relayed back to the group (or report in via email updates) whom they have reached out to and how that Peace member is doing. The support included: phone calls, cards, emails, visits, trips to doctor's appointments, rides to church, meeting for lunch, and any other help needed.

Committee members continued to be in touch with their folks or any church member needing attention via cards, phone, email or in person. Additionally, the members reported back informally to other members and made Pastor Sarah aware of pertinent happenings.

One of the highlights of the year included periodic lunch visits to Greenspring Senior Living Community in Springfield to visit residents Liesa Kirste and Gene Wunderlich. More and more attendees came to the visits which was a treat to both the residents and the attendees.

The relationships made among the committee members and their care recipients continue to flourish and remain beneficial to both caregiver and receiver. Their work continues.



Music Ministry

Jim Nice and Paul Sticha

Martin Luther's most famous quote on music is this, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."

2022 was a year of both creativity and a return to normalcy for Peace's Music Ministry. 2022 provided the opportunity for our music groups to reconvene, rehearse, perform without masks, and present our music with passion. Paul Sticha continued to lead the Bells of Peace, who played regularly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adela Peeva, Paul, and Jim Nice coordinated Peace soloists and small vocal groups to provide special music throughout the first half of the year. Paul reconvened the Voices of Peace choir in the fall of 2022, providing vocal arrangements and special music during our services. Jim Nice continued to lead the Messengers of Peace to provide alternative worship music on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Sylvia Alimena led the Brass of Peace, an auditioned brass group of high school players, on Christ the King Sunday, providing special music and hymn accompaniment. With the departure of Dr. Adela Peeva as our organist and music director, our own Judy Gallagher has served as our interim organist for the past 9 months. We are extremely grateful to Judy for serving in this capacity and sharing her talents with us!



Special services in 2022 for which Peace music groups provided music included:

- Holden Evening Prayer vespers during Lent
- Christ the King Sunday – Sylvia Alimena and the Brass of Peace provided special music and provided hymn accompaniment along with the Messengers of Peace
- Advent Carol Service – Voices of Peace, the Bell Choir, Judy Gallagher on organ, and Messengers provided a program of sacred holiday music and hymns

After Easter, our beloved music director, Dr. Adela Peeva, left us to pursue a new music leadership opportunity. Peace formed a Music Director search committee to find her replacement. Janine Woldt led a team of 7 dedicated search committee members - Lucy Gebre-Egziabher, Jim Buchanan, Shannon Spence, Kathleen Wage, Kallie LaPier, Paul Sticha, and Jim Nice. After 8 months of searching, interviews, and deliberations, we selected a new music director, Elizabeth "Liz" Eunji Mun (pronounced "moon"). Liz has a vast array of experience leading choirs and providing accompaniment to organizations including Marine Corps Base Quantico and Pender United Methodist Church in Fairfax. The committee thanks Janine for her tireless leadership in achieving our goal of selecting "a music director for Christmas".

Peace's Music Ministry thanks all our singers, ringers, and instrumentalists for the gifts of music they share with us. We encourage all those who wish to be part of this ministry to contact the church office at info@sharingpeace.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Nice and Paul Sticha – ministry co-leaders

Racial Justice Team

**Mary Dallao, Sara Hiller, Laura Maul,
Shannon Spence, Pastor Sarah, Nadia
Fitzcharles**

Indigenous People Worship Liturgy

On October 20, worship at Peace included liturgical contributions of Indigenous Lutherans. After the 10:30 a.m. worship, two Peace members who work for the Federal Government on native issues led a conversation on what they've learned about our nation's relationship with indigenous communities and

how it is an extension of our faith to advocate for justice for indigenous people. Peace is on the ancestral homelands of the Piscataway People .

Book Study

The Racial Justice Team convened a fall book club to read "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Led by Sara Hiller, the group met three times in person for discussion.

Metro D.C. Synod Faith in Action Racial Equity Network Meeting

Members of Peace's Racial Justice Team participated in the second Metro D.C. Synod Faith in Action Racial Equity Network meeting, led by Shannon Spence of Peace. This was a great opportunity to connect online with other congregations who also prioritize racial equity to share what initiatives are being worked on, provide support and encouragement to each other, and possibly get inspiration for next steps. There is now a Facebook group that will keep the conversation going over the long term – you can join the conversation there today!

Bull Run Cemetery Tour

In November, a few Peace members joined a tour of Bull Run Regional Park Slave Cemetery and Church organized by the Fairfax County NAACP. Located not far from the popular Atlantis Water Park, the cemetery holds the graves of 91 formerly enslaved people—graves that were only recently discovered. The group learned about the history of the site and how we, as Christians, can “advocate for those who weren’t able to advocate for themselves in this life .” You can learn more about this little-known aspect of Virginia history, and our connection to it today, by watching a half-hour PBS documentary called “Unmarked.” Please be on the lookout for more tour dates in 2023 that we hope for Peace people to attend together.

Sacred Ground Series on Race & Faith

Are you ready to have honest, thoughtful, and challenging conversations as a person of faith on the topics of race and racial equity? The synod's Racial Equity Network is hoping to organize another Sacred Ground small group discussion series on race and faith. According to the synod's website, the Sacred Ground curriculum focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian Pacific Americans and their histories. Over the course of twelve sessions, participants learn a great deal and take a spiritual journey with others that is grounded in faith, love, and humility. Those who have had the Sacred Ground experience say it is “transformational and life giving.” While details of an upcoming session starting in early 2023 have yet to be ironed out (dates, times, Zoom vs. in-person, etc.), the Peace Racial Justice Team is interested in hosting a small group at Peace. Please contact nadia@sharingpeace.org if you'd like to learn more.



Men's Ministry

Jim Nice & Ron Maree

The Brothers of Peace men's ministry is a group that focuses its members on what it is like to be a Christ-Like man. We provide each other spiritual support and fellowship, discuss what's happening in our lives, do some Bible study, offer our prayer concerns, and participate in community service. We began meeting in person with a dinner gathering at Foxfire

Grill on December 1st. We continue to meet in-person with a hybrid (Zoom) option.

Our group provides a way for the men of Peace to stay connected and share experiences. We will continue our in-person with hybrid-option meetings and are planning some fun outings.

Please contact Jim Nice or Ron Maree if you are interested in joining us.

Jim Nice and Ron Maree

Brothers of Peace Men's Ministry Leaders

Beading for Haiti

Chris Jensen

The Beading for Haiti ministry has been on hiatus since March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, which shut down beading sales at churches and local craft fairs, normally Beading for Haiti's main source of revenue. Beading for Haiti workshops have not yet resumed at Peace Lutheran, but we look forward to resuming workshops and jewelry sales in 2023.

The Beading for Haiti workshop at Peace Lutheran was formed in February 2014 under the auspices of the Beading for Haiti workshops at the Lord of Life Lutheran campuses in Fairfax and Clifton, VA. Beading for Haiti is committed to the creation and sale of jewelry (designed using paper bead rolling techniques learned in Haiti), and to sending all profits to the Village of Hope School and Clinic in Haiti.

Project Boomerang

Chris Jensen

The Project Boomerang ministry at Peace Lutheran Church suspended their in-person gathering for card-making in March 2020 and continues to be on hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. As its mission continues to evolve, Project Boomerang is challenged to find new potential outlets

for its hand-made greeting cards. On November 4, 2022 over 100 cards made by the Scrappy Ladies of Project Boomerang were distributed to several Prayer Shawl knitters for various card ministries at Peace Lutheran (including to college age kids and for use by the Deacon's team).

Project Boomerang began in July 2006 with an idea to create blank greeting cards for military chaplains to distribute to deployed troops and support personnel overseas. Recipients could then add a personal message to their loved ones back home, thus the boomerang effect. The Scrappy Ladies of Project Boomerang look forward to welcoming new members and expanding the ministry in 2023, and to being able to once again gather in person to create beautiful cards for mailing overseas to deployed troops or elsewhere as needed.



Personnel

Jim Buchanan

- Mission:** The Personnel Committee oversees the employment of PLC salaried lay staff, including administering annual reviews, maintaining employment records, and advising Council on compensation. It also works at the direction of the Council to evaluate the Pastoral staff and provide compensation guidance.
- Members:** Jim Buchanan, chair
Kathleen Wage
Lucy Gebre-Egziabher
Janine Woldt
- Highlights for 2022:** The hiring of new Music Director Liz Mun! The effort was conducted under the skillful and unflagging leadership of Janine Woldt. A Search Committee that included the Personnel Committee along with Kallie Lapier, Shannon Spence, Jim Nice, and Paul Sticha, labored nearly a year and were rewarded with Liz's agreement to fill the position. No one was more delighted with the success of this process than Judy Gallaher who performed brilliantly as our organist during the search.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell

The Peace Prayer Shawlers are a group inspired by their shared love of knitting/crocheting projects and praying for others joined in mission to make prayer shawls, baby Afghans, washcloths, hats and scarves. Prior to the Covid restrictions, the group met regularly on Fridays at the Barcroft Starbucks from 1-3 pm to share stories, support one another and pray for those in need. Zoom meetings took over for most of the year set up by Anne Whitten on the same date and time. We were thrilled to be joined by ladies from afar such as AZ, CA, DE, FL, NC, MO, and RI. The Shawlers caught up on concerns for others, personal well being of our members, yarn sales and pattern suggestions and special charity concerns the groups could contribute to.

Highlight of 2022: Members were excited to see each in person back at Starbucks this fall. This year 106 knitted or crocheted items were made and donated with others ready to go. That number includes 27 items for Ronald McDonald House in Fairfax, VA and 45 items for "Kids Give Back Project"; a non-profit organization in Annandale, VA.

Contact: Ministry is group led with a fluctuating yet vibrant membership including Peace current and former members, friends from other churches and just friends we've met along the way. **2022 Peace Members** included: Sue Buchanan, Carol Crouse (FL), Mary Downs, Marcia Dursi, Chris Jensen*, Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell (DE), Debbie Marquardt, Carol Randall, Rhonda Rose, Peggy Ruchti (AZ), Beth Westerberg, and Anne Whitten. Longtime members/friends include: Bernadette O'Donoghue, Vicky Haugen (MO), Christine Howlett, Barbara Gray, Cathy Kroohs, Joan Malcolm (FL), Joan McNamara (RI), Janet Miller, Cindy Nothom, Marcy Rita, and Sheelagh Crowley (NC). If someone is interested in joining or wants to know more about our group, please contact any of the ladies above (**under "2022 Members"**) directly via your latest church directory or check with the church office. (*Chris creates our laminated prayer tags that go with our items.) All are welcome to join the Prayer Shawlers - an informal and fun group. Arrangements can be made to make yarn, needles and notions available for those who would like to join the group and need such supplies.

Property

Don and Anna Hartmayer

Outdoors: Sue Clark

Mission: To enhance the worship and fellowship experience of our church family by caring for our property in a way that glorifies God.

Vision: We will do this by

- PROVIDING a safe and clean environment
- MAINTAINING the facilities
- IMPROVING the church's property

Strategy: This Ministry performs God's work at the church through the upkeep and stewardship of the church's buildings. The Ministry ensures that the church property is maintained and repaired as necessary, and develops and implements proposals and long-term plans for the care and preservation of church property.

Main responsibilities:

- Perform routine and preventative maintenance.
- Coordinate outside contractors such as plumbers and electricians.
- Manage major projects.
- Schedule periodic clean up days for grounds and buildings.
- Identify smaller maintenance and repair tasks and bringing them to the attention of the congregation.
- Address fire and safety issues, handicap access and building code requirements.
- Plan for replacement of major items such as roofs, lighting, pavement, and heating/air conditioning systems.

“Many Hands Make Light Work” We are grateful for the people who have donated their time and talents to assist with the property issues and maintenance in 2021. Anna & Don Hartmayer are the “Buildings” Co-Chairs and Sue Clark is the “Grounds” Chair. If you would like to join us, please contact Anna & Don or Sue, or email: annakris95@icloud.com or chezclark3417@gmail.com

Want to get involved but don't want to be forced into someone else's schedule? Do we have a deal for you! We have a long list (think 95 theses) of projects of varying sizes that we would be happy to share and you can choose one and pick away at it as you have time. No pressure to show up a particular day or get it done in a particular time frame and honestly it does come with the perk of some self-satisfaction of seeing it get done. Just send an email to annakris95@icloud.com and we will send you the list.

Let's start with what DID get done in 2022.

2022 Projects

- A special thank you to Anna D'Andrade and her family Kara, Mckayla and Peyton for once again building the amazing stable and adding lighting. Truly a work of art and we had so much fun as a Congregation using it we can't wait for next year.
- Briana who made the animals look so life like Don said that the cows seemed like they followed you around with their eyes will touch up the paint this summer and Don and I are in the process of making a new star.



- Some of the worst areas of brickwork were repointed this year but there is a lot more to do.
- All the thermostats in the building have been replaced with wireless ones that enable changes to be made remotely as well as locally. Please do not use the permanent hold function as that disrupts the normal schedule. If you want to adjust the temperature while you are using a room please use the temporary hold function. Please contact Don and Anna with any concerns/questions.
- Elite Cleaning Solutions will continue cleaning the entire building on a weekly basis for Peace as well as cleaning carpets etc on an as needed basis and they are also being contracted by LIRS and REACTDC to come an additional day for them. If you have any cleaning concerns please send those to Don and Anna.
- We have contracted with Baldinos to repair the door in Fellowship Hall and replace the Cipher Lock, we are waiting on parts.
- The boiler failed the inspection this year due to the distance from the floor of the safety valve drain pipe, Don was able to modify it and the boiler passed inspection.
- Converted more of the lights at Lauxman to LED to get rid of the buzzing and improve the overall light quality
- A leak was discovered in the roof over the men's bathroom on the Sanctuary side (thank you to Steve for reporting that). It was repaired this week. Ceiling will be repaired over the weekend.
- Replaced the valve in the toilet off the kitchen (thank you to Jose for handling that)
- We replaced several flappers and other parts for toilets throughout the complex. With 10 toilets repair is almost a constant process.
- Worked with LIRS throughout the year to keep the buildings clean and functioning with the additional usage.
- Assisted with the LIRS consolidation and the move in of REACTDC. Had drywall repaired in both Lauxman and the Nursery wing and had the Nursery wing repainted with a durable finish paint in a lovely coral color, you won't believe it's the same area. Even if you don't like the color the difference is astonishing!
- The Lauxman House chimney was repaired but the building still needs a lot of work: brickwork, porches and steps on both sides all need work.
- LIRS took over the entire basement at Lauxman for 2023 including the storage area where Jim and Sue have been sorting/storing the food for the school lunch program so they were moved upstairs in Lauxman, thank you to Jim and Sue for being so accommodating of the LIRS need for space. On the agenda for 2023 is having the carpet in the basement cleaned to prevent permanent staining.
- New sump pumps along with battery backup and some new plumbing were installed in both the Lauxman basement and the basement under the sanctuary.

Property Ministry – 2022 Outdoors

2022 saw big reductions in the spread of COVID, but it was still difficult to gather folks to work on the Peace property. Several things were accomplished, however, a major clean up of the scatter garden, that is the bed at the base of the cross at the main entrance. Watch for spring bulbs there. In addition, the bed outside the Lauxman House was cleaned up and in the fall, daffodils were planted.

Once during the summer Jose Landscaping was hired to clean an area along the back fence. Since we were pleased with his work, he was again hired, after a bid process, for a clean up all around the Peace grounds, with the exception of the now overgrown rain garden near Lincolnia Road. The butterfly garden looks especially nice, cleaned and mulched with the path now clearly marked with wood chips. The butterfly garden has proved especially difficult to maintain and a decision has been made to cultivate trees in that

area. Hope you like the idea of a shade garden in about 20 years! One dream for that area is a large arch over the walkway to provide needed support for the native honeysuckle growing there now. Anyone interested in helping to build or fund this? Contact Sue Clark.

Sue continues to put in countless hours working on keeping weeds in the beds at bay along with organizing volunteers to help. Volunteers are always welcome and feel free to pull any weeds you see out as you walk by :-)

Hats off to Stu Whitehead for keeping the mowing team scheduled, to the mowers for sticking with their responsibilities and especially to Mike Stumpf for maintaining the equipment. Mike, Stu and the Lawn Team purchased a new battery operated zero turn mower that is apparently fun to drive along with doing a good job cutting the lawn

New members are always welcome for the lawn team; please contact Stu Whitehead or Sue Clark if you would like to join the team.

Also for 2023 Sue is planning on having someone come in multiple times during the year to do cleanup rather than one giant clean up in the fall. We feel this will be both more effective and less expensive.

Property Ministry – Plans for 2023 and possibly 2024 and beyond depending on budget

- The HVAC system for Fellowship Hall and the Nursery Wing is being held together with bubble gum and folded matchbook covers. It was installed in the early 60s and has FAR outlasted anyone's version of life expectancy. We have a quote for around 45,000.00 that we got in 2022, we expect it to go up at least a little in 2023. If it fails (right now the fan runs all the time because the switch that turns it on and off is broken and can't be replaced) it will have to be replaced immediately for both comfort and building preservation reasons (think frozen pipes in the winter or mold in the summer)
- New handrails on the stairs to the choir loft will be installed (thanks David that's a great idea) and the light on the landing will be replaced with something that actually lights up the landing.
- With the repair of the brickwork around the stained glass windows being accomplished we can now turn to looking at repairing the drywall that was damaged by the water. We will also have the wood around the windows checked for water damage.
- There is a spotlight bulb that is burned out in the ceiling that will almost certainly require scaffolding to replace.
- The sanctuary needs to be repainted and the area around the Sacristy that was damaged by water and termites needs to be repaired before that is done.
- Getting the scaffolding to do these jobs is expensive and we would like to do all the scaffolding work at the same time to prevent being charged for multiple scaffolding events.
- The floor grates have never fit again since the carpet was replaced and they all present a trip and fall hazard. They need to be replaced with ones that fit
- We are working on either a lock box for the Lauxman porch or a new door with a secure slot in it so that people can leave mail, donations etc. when the office is closed.
- The parking lot is in need of serious work, we had an estimate a couple years ago of around 20,000 for repair of the lot and some of the worst area of the sidewalks. Should we have the budget for that in 2023 that estimate would have to be updated.
- The garage needs a new outlet and ceiling light. That will be accomplished soon.
- The gutters need to be cleaned and repaired; no one can remember how long ago it was that that was done last and Anna climbed up on a ladder and looked inside and they are FULL of gunk and leaking.
- Soffits around the gutters in the courtyard and on the side of the nursery closest to Summit are rotting

from the leaking and the weather and we are exploring whether they can be removed or if repairing them is the only option.

- Wood around the windows etc. need to be scraped, sanded and repainted to prevent damage to the wood.
- Carpet in Fellowship Hall needs to be replaced with something more durable but that will probably have to wait until we don't have tenants. Thank you to Annalise for repairing the seams and gluing it all back together.
- Carpets throughout the complex will need to be cleaned to prevent permanent staining.
- Some of the chairs in Fellowship Hall have seat cushions that are coming apart, we either need to get rid of those chairs or order new seats.
- We are in the process of making the uplights in front of Fellowship Hall solar and pulling out all the cut up wires etc...
- The walls in the basement stairwell on the nursery side need to be scraped and painted as they are peeling and the concrete is spalling due to age and the dampness.
- Furnace filters need to be replaced several times a year and it's no more complicated than yours at home if anyone is interested in taking that on please contact Don and Anna.
- We are still looking for someone to replace John McCracken. It's not really possible to REPLACE someone who took care of the physical plant for over 40 years but we are looking for someone who is willing to take on keeping it running. If anyone has a HVAC company that does maintenance we would love to hear about them.
- AND on the subject of maintenance we would also like the congregation to consider the idea of hiring a property custodian for the building who could work maybe 8-16 hours a month to start and keep up with the myriad of things that come up and small jobs around the complex.
- There is a wet spot in the ceiling by the nursery we don't know where the water is coming from it does not appear to be coming from the roof but we will have Northern Virginia Roofing take a look at it when they come out to patch the roof on the other wing. The other option for water leakage is the sprinkler pipe, we would rather have it be the roof.
- There are two broken shelves in the kitchen cabinets, we will contact REICO to see about parts
- We are sure that there are more fun things to do but in the interest of the Lorax who speaks for the trees we will stop here.



Mission Endowment Fund

Ramsey L. Woodworth, Chair

Our Committee is responsible for the management of Peace's Mission Endowment Fund and the encouragement of giving to the Fund. For 2022, we pleased to report the receipt of \$4,780, the final portion of the bequest from the Estate of Jerry R. Gaul, a treasured member of Peace who passed away in 2021. This

bequest has been invested in the ELCA's Endowment Fund Pooled Trust.

As of December 31, 2022, we had a balance of \$ 123,402 in our Endowment Fund. Roughly 57% (\$70,719) of these funds are invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and 43% (\$52,683) in our interest-bearing Mission Investment Demand Account. The ELCA Pooled Trust did not perform well for the year. While income distributed and then reinvested in the fund was \$2,768, roughly a 3.7% return on investment, and the fund market value overall decreased by \$13,556 reflecting the poor market conditions for the year. The Committee will closely follow the performance of the Fund in 2023. Our goal, as managers of these investments, is to maintain a safe and prudent balance between equity and fixed income funds, and foster the long-term growth of the Fund.

We encourage all members of Peace to consider making Peace part of your long-term charitable giving and estate planning and become a member of our Legacy Society. As you wish, this can be done either through a gift designated specifically to our Mission Endowment Fund or on an unrestricted basis to address the current needs of the congregation and our community.

Ramsey L. Woodworth

Chair, Mission Endowment Fund Committee



Quilters Mary Downs

After a very successful year in 2021, our quilting season for 2022 started off with a very small group of 3 people on January 6. During the month it grew to nine participants and we were up and running again.

Then on February 3, we said farewell to a very helpful and faithful member, Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell. In March the quilters put a few of our quilts on display in the Sanctuary for Lent. We also donated a couple of quilts to the Children's Ministry, "Time for Children".

We continued to meet, design, assemble and tie quilts and on May 29, all the quilts we made were on display in the Sanctuary until Senior Quilt Day, June 12. At that time Pastor Sarah blessed the quilts and gave the graduation quilts to the seniors. The remaining quilts were put away to be taken to New Windsor, MD for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The quilters celebrated by having lunch at the Silver Diner on June 2.

On July 7, Stewart DeHaven, Ray Marquardt, Hilda Crabtree, and Mary Downs delivered 53 quilts to New Windsor, MD to Lutheran World Relief. Another 50 quilts were given to Lutheran Immigration Relief Service (LIRS) for distribution to the refugees they were assisting in finding lodging and placement.

Around July/August the quilters discovered that LWR had a new size requirement for their quilts. We had been making them with 10 inch squares and now they wanted all the quilts to be 60" X 80". That meant that we needed to increase the size of our squares to 11 inches with 1/2 inch seams. We had to cut new squares and/or increase the size by using extra material on the edges of the quilts or in the middle. But we persevered and made quilts using the new dimensions which will be delivered to LWR in the 2023 year.

On September 18, 2022, we participated in the Ministry Fair by showing our quilts and process. In the fall we also donated around 15 more quilts to the LIRS group. We are continuing to make new quilts and at the present time we have around 75 new quilts either completed or in progress. This is a very good beginning to 2023.

We have about eight active members, two honorary members, and five previous members including Veronica Boyles who retired this year after many years of faithful service. We welcome any and all newcomers, those who are considering joining, or those who would like the fellowship and camaraderie of a group that helps others.



No reports this year from:

Fellowship
Faith Foundations
Peace Community Gardens
Stewardship

Witness Ministry
Worship Ministry
Teller Teams
Technology Committee
Women Renewing at Peace (WRAP)



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